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November 15, 2012

Dr. Susan Hedman, Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region V
77 West Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, IL 60604-3590

Dear Dr. Hedman:

I am writing in follow up to your September 18, 2012 response to my August 28, 2012 letter in reference to the Marquette County Road 595 (CR 595) wetland fill permit application. In my letter, I had outlined a number of considerations I asked that you take into account as you review the permit application, and also asked for the review to be conducted in a timely manner. Your response stated that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was reviewing all of the comments received and would prepare a responsiveness summary when complete. However, there was no indication of a time frame for that review.

My staff has been in contact with your office regarding the time frame for completing the review of comments, as well as the review of the permit application. However, they also have not been given any indication of when that review would be completed. As I believe you are aware, the applicant needs a response as soon as possible, to allow enough time to prepare for a 2013 construction season start. Rio Tinto has committed to funding the costs of this road as long as construction begins early next year. Please describe how much time EPA typically requires for review of such comments, and whether the EPA is taking any steps to accelerate the permit review process for the Marquette CR 595 permit?

Thank you for your attention to these concerns. You may direct any questions to my Regional Representative Amy Berglund in my Escanaba office listed below.

Sincerely,


Carl Levin

CL/ab

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